

null  
Diana T Fritz 06/05/2007 04:18:52 PM From DB/Inbox: Search Results

Cable  
Text:

UNCLASSIFIED

SIPDIS  
TELEGRAM

January 12, 2003

To: No Action Addressee  
Action: Unknown  
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 159 - UNKNOWN)  
TAGS: OIIP, KMDR  
Captions: None  
Subject: MEDIA REACTION: MEPI, IRAQ, AND NORTH KOREA  
Ref: None

---

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 00159

SIPDIS  
CXABU:  
ACTION: PAO  
INFO: ECON DCM POL AMB  
Laser1:  
ACTION: PAO

DISSEMINATION: PAO  
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: ADCM:TWILLIAMS  
DRAFTED: PAO:TPONCE  
CLEARED: PAO:KVANDEVATE

VZCZCADI610  
OO RUEHC RUENAAA RUEKJCS RUEHZM RUEHLO RUEHFR  
RHRMDAB RUCJACC RUCQSOC  
DE RUEHAD #0159/01 0120945  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
O 120945Z JAN 03  
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7835  
RUENAAA/SECNAV WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEHZM/GCC COLLECTIVE  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0553  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0623  
RHRMDAB/COMUSNAVCENT  
RUCJACC/USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL//CCPA//  
RUCQSOC/USCINCSOC MACDILL AFB FL//PA//

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ABU DHABI 000159

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/ARP, NEA/PPD, INR  
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA  
USCINCCENT FOR POLAD  
LONDON FOR GOLDRICH; PARIS FOR O'FRIEL

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [OIIP](#) [KMDR](#) [TC](#)  
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: MEPI, IRAQ, AND NORTH KOREA

1. SUMMARY: REGIONAL AND UAE MEDIA FOCUSED LARGELY ON A PERCEIVED DOUBLE STANDARD IN U.S. POLICIES TOWARDS NORTH KOREA AND IRAQ AS WELL AS THE MIDDLE EAST PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE (MEPI). AN "AKHBAR AL ARAB" EDITORIAL QUESTIONED WHY WASHINGTON DOES NOT APPLY A STRONG STANCE TO NORTH KOREA SIMILAR TO WHAT IT

DOES ON IRAQ. CONVERSELY, AN "AL KHALEEJ" EDITORIAL ARGUED THAT THE U.S. IS NOT REQUIRED TO START A WAR WITH NORTH KOREA, BUT IT SHOULD HALT ITS MOVEMENT TO WAR WITH IRAQ. IN ANOTHER EDITORIAL, "AL KHALEEJ" URGED IRAQ TO PRACTICE SELF-RESTRAINT. "AL BAYAN" COMMENTED THAT THE U.S. DOES NOT REALIZE ITS POLICIES GENERATE HOSTILITY WITH MOST PEOPLE AROUND THE GLOBE. COMMENTING ON U.S. EFFORTS TO PROMOTE MEPI, QATARI WRITER DR. AHMED ABDUL MALAK CONCLUDES THAT THE RELIGIOUS MAINSTREAM IN THE GULF WILL NOT ALLOW THE SPREAD OF THESE VALUES. END SUMMARY.

¶2. COMMENTING ON A PERCEIVED DOUBLE STANDARD IN U.S. POLICIES TOWARDS NORTH KOREA AND IRAQ, ABU DHABI-BASED PAN-ARAB "AKHBAR AL ARAB" EDITORIALIZED ON 1/9:

"THE SUPPORTERS FOR WAR STILL PREFER A BUSH-SHARON BRINKMANSHIP TYPE POLICY WITH IRAQ ... THE QUESTION IS WHY DOESN'T THE BUSH-SHARON ADMINISTRATION APPLY THE SAME SORT OF HOSTILE METHODS TO NORTH KOREA, ESPECIALLY AFTER IT EXPELLED THE NUCLEAR INSPECTORS? THE REASON IS CLEAR; NORTH KOREA IS STRONG AND UNITED, WHERE AS IRAQ IS MILITARILY WEAK AND DESTROYED SOCIALLY DUE TO THE SANCTIONS. IRAQ ALSO SUFFERS FROM THE GROWING MISTAKES OF THE IRAQI LEADERSHIP. THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION IS WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THE RESULTS OF THE AMERICAN WAR ON IRAQ ARE NOT WHAT BUSH-SHARON DESIRE?"

¶3. COMMENTING ON THE SAME SUBJECT, "AKHBAR AL ARAB" EDITORIALIZED ON 1/11:

"... THE WAR ON IRAQ IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME FOR WASHINGTON. IT IS WAITING TO COMPLETE ITS MILITARY BUILD-UP AND END NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE BIG POWERS ON EACH SHARE OF THE IRAQI PIE OR, SAY, THE MORE DELICIOUS ARAB PIE. THE REAL INTENTIONS BEHIND THE WAR ARE CLEAR NOW."

¶4. DISCUSSING AN AMERICAN-LED WAR ON IRAQ AND THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA, SHARJAH-BASED PAN-ARAB "AL KHALEEJ" EDITORIALIZED ON 1/11:

"... WHAT IS REQUIRED NOW IS NOT TO DECLARE WAR AGAINST THE U.S. AS PYONG YANG HAS DONE. WHAT IS REQUIRED NOW IS TO STAND UP HONESTLY AND SINCERELY TO STOP THE AMERICAN WAR ON ARABS WHICH IS SEEN THROUGH ITS AGGRESSION AGAINST IRAQ AND THE INCREASING ZIONIST AGGRESSION IN PALESTINE."

¶5. COMMENTING ON WHAT IT CALLED THE 'TRICKY' STATEMENT OF HANS BLIX ON THE RESULTS OF WMD INSPECTIONS, "AL KHALEEJ" EDITORIALIZED ON 1/10:

"... IT (IRAQ) MUST ADOPT A POLICY OF SELF-RESTRAINT IN ORDER TO PREVENT ANY RESPONSE TO THE PROVOCATIONS OF BUSH, BLAIR, BLIX, OR THE WMD INSPECTORS. THE INCREASING MILITARY BUILD-UP (IN THE GULF) BY WASHINGTON AND LONDON IS NOT TOURISM. IT IS FOR A VERY CLEAR MISSION."

¶6. ARGUING THAT THE CONFLICT WITH IRAQ CLEARLY PROVIDES THE U.S. IS AN INSANE, IMPERIAL POWER ABIDING ONLY BY THE LAW OF THE JUNGLE, DUBAI-BASED BUSINESS-ORIENTED "AL BAYAN" EDITORIALIZED ON 1/11:

"... THROUGH THIS WAR, THE U.S. CONVEYS A MESSAGE TO THOSE WHO DARE TO THINK OF COMPETING AGAINST IT. THE U.S. IS SAYING THAT IT IS THE ONLY EMPIRE IN THE WORLD. ITS PLAN OF WORLD DOMINATION HAS NO ROOM FOR PARTNERS. MOREOVER, EVERYBODY MUST CARRY OUT ITS ORDERS OR BE PUNISHED THE SAME WAY AS IRAQ ... THE U.S. DOES NOT REALIZE THAT THIS SITUATION WILL GENERATE MORE HOSTILITY WITH PEOPLE AROUND THE GLOBE AND ONLY RESULT IN FURTHER ISOLATION."

¶7. NOTING THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE PROTESTING A WAR ON IRAQ IS INCREASING, "AL BAYAN" EDITORIALIZED ON 1/10:

"... THE CIRCLE OF PEOPLE REFUSING A WAR IN IRAQ IS WIDENING IN THE WEST. WILL WASHINGTON LISTEN AND RESPOND?"

¶8. COMMENTING ON MEPI, EGYPTIAN INTELLECTUAL SYED YASSIN ABU EDITORIALIZED IN DHABI-BASED SEMI-OFFICIAL "AL ITTIHAD" ON 1/9:

"... IF THE U.S. TRIES TO PRACTICE SELF-CRITICISM - AS PER RICHARD HASS' CONFESSION OF THE U.S. BEING POLITICALLY

OPPORTUNIST - WILL IT BE ABLE TO WIDEN THE CIRCLE OF CRITICISM AND CONFESS ITS TERRIBLE MISTAKE OF LIMITLESSLY SUPPORTING THE RACIST ISRAEL. ENJOYING THE U.S. SUPPORT, ISRAEL ADOPTS A CLEAR POLICY TO TERMINATE THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. IS THE U.S. READY TO CONFESS ITS MISTAKE WHEN IT SAYS THAT ISRAEL IS THE OASIS OF DEMOCRACY IN THE MIDDLE EAST."

19. COMMENTING ON THE AMERICAN PRESENCE IN THE GULF SINCE THE PREVIOUS WAR WITH IRAQ, QATARI WRITER DR. AHMED ABDUL MALAK WROTE IN "AL ITTIHAD" ON 1/9:

"... IF THIS PRESENCE IS JUSTIFIED WITH THE SUPPORT OF MANY (ARAB) GOVERNMENTS, THERE WILL BE A CONFLICT WHEN THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION STARTS FULFILLING ITS PROMISES IN THE REGION, I.E., THE LIBERAL VALUES ANNOUNCED BY CONDOLEEZA RICE, AND THE MIDDLE EAST PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE ANNOUNCED BY COLIN POWELL. THE RELIGIOUS STREAM IN THE REGION WILL NOT ALLOW THE ACCEPTANCE OF THESE VALUES. IT WILL CONFRONT ANY GOVERNMENT IF IT DECLARES ITS CLEAR ACCEPTANCE OF THOSE VALUES ... EVEN THE LIBERAL STREAM WILL NOT AGREE WITH APPLYING THOSE VALUES - THOUGH IT BELIEVES IN THEM - SIMPLY BECAUSE IT FEELS THAT THEY ARE AN AMERICAN GIFT APPLIED THROUGH AMERICAN GUNS AND TANKS. THIS STREAM REJECTS THE AMERICAN PRESENCE IN THE REGION AND MAY SACRIFICE ITS LIBERAL VALUES IN RETURN FOR THE DEPARTURE OF AMERICAN FORCES ... IF THE U.S. BETS ON A SUCCESSFUL DEAL BETWEEN ARABS AND ISRAEL VIA MEPI AND THE VALUES OF DEMOCRACY, WE BELIEVE THAT IT WILL LOSE ITS BET ... THE U.S. WILL BE A VICTIM OF LOCAL CONTRADICTIONS IN THE REGION, ESPECIALLY AFTER DEMOCRATIC CHANGES CAUSE PRO-U.S. GOVERNMENTS TO CHANGE THEIR POLICIES AND STRIVE TO GUARANTEE THEIR INDEPENDENCE FROM INTERFERENCE IN THEIR INTERNAL AFFAIRS. FINALLY, ARAB COUNTRIES WILL REALIZE THE RESULTS OF A CHANGING SYLLABUS, DEMOCRATIC VALUES, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND THE ROLE OF WOMAN IN DEVELOPMENT. THESE ARE ALL BURNING ISSUES WHICH THE U.S. MAY MAKE HOTTER."

WAHBA